AUTOMATIC LOCAL NETWORK DISCOVERY AND FIREWALL RECONFIGURATION METHODOLOGY FOR A MOBILE COMPUTING DEVICE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system providing methodologies for automatically detecting when a computing device is plugged into a new network is described. The system includes methods for detecting a connection to a new network by receiving notice of, and evaluating, changes to an existing network configuration. The system profiles and generates an identity for the new network. This includes collecting information about the network to uniquely identify it and generating a unique identifier for the network. Once a network has been profiled, a user may decide whether or not to include it as part of a trusted zone. Alternatively, this decision may be guided by policy established by a system administrator or user. The system automatically reconfigures a firewall to include or exclude the network from the trusted zone based upon this decision. The profile of each network is stored so that the next time the device is connected to the same network it remembers the network and applies the same security settings previously adopted. The stored profile also facilitates the detection of changes to the network configuration or the connection to a new network.

VIV/0004 01